

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 27, 2004

Carol C. Lam, United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, announced that a federal jury yesterday afternoon found MANUEL TISCARENO-RENTERIA guilty of maliciously causing damage, by fire, to the Congregation Beth Am Synagogue, located at 5050 Del Mar Heights Road in San Diego.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher Tenorio, who prosecuted the case, TISCARENO used gasoline and an open flame to set fire to the synagogue complex. One trial witness estimated the damage to the Temple to be more than \$128,000. No injuries to persons resulted from the fire.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Any arson is a horrendous crime; but setting fire to a Synagogue is particularly abhorrent."

TISCARENO will remain in custody pending his sentencing hearing, scheduled for August 23, 2004 before United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns who was the trial judge.

DEFENDANT

Manuel Tiscareno-Renteria

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 844(i) (Malicious Damage to a Building used in Interstate Commerce)

Minimum Mandatory penalty: five years imprisonment; Maximum penalty: 20 years imprisonment; \$250,000 fine.

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

San Diego Police Department

Oceanside Police Department